



Monday, March 11, 2019; 2:00 to 4:00pm
Canal Place, 20th Floor
Phelps Dunbar
365 Canal Street, New Orleans

Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Jeremy DeBlieux
Heidi Raines
David Speights
Albin Guillot

Susan Klein
Steve Caputo (dep. 4:10)
Christian Pendleton
Kim Rosenberg (arv. 2:10)

David Bilbe
Nicholas Musso
Matthew Emory

Absent: Jim Oliver, Robert Watters

Executive Director: Emily Remington

Guests:

NOPD Commander Nick Gernon
Aldine Valentino, NOPD
Beverly Faulk, FQMD, SEC & Lighting
Bob Simms, SEC

Erin Holmes, VCPORA
Susan Guillot, FQC
Brian Furness, Gov. Affairs Committee

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL** - Mr. Musso called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** It was announced all guests must sign in, and anyone wishing to comment on actionable items must indicate the item(s) on which s/he wishes to comment.
- III. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2019 MINUTES** – Mr. Speights motioned (**M1**) to “approve the January minutes following the two corrections noted by Mr. DeBlieux...” seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.
- IV. **CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**
 - a. **Licensing agreement with SDT Productions LLC** – Mr. Musso and Mr. Torres are negotiating the two-year security app agreement. The working number is \$36,000 versus the current \$24,000 (French Quarter Management District (FQMD) annually pays. Mr. Torres will remit any necessary data to verify this increase. Mr. Musso would like a long-term agreement; however, he is seeking at least a two-year renewable contract. St. Tammany Parish is paying \$50,000 annually for this application. Mr. DeBlieux suggested we agree to the \$36,000 for 2020 & 2021, and to continue at \$24,000 for the remainder of 2019. Commissioner Raines will confer with Chairman Musso and

Executive Director Remington regarding this technology service contract. She noted standard industry practice includes a 3-5 % annual increase with a termination clause if the client (FQMD) ceases to exist. \$36,000.00 should be negotiated for subsequent years. Analytical reports are built within the app and these should be available to FQMD. Ms. Raines suggested we should license the technology and expose our brand through all signage, including the vehicles. Ms. Rosenberg questioned why “App Task Force” is name of app. Ms. Musso noted that is part of the discussion for Executive Session later. Mr. Simms noted that every officer action goes into the app. In St. Tammany Parish, the app is named for the Sheriffs office. He explained that “App Task Force” is the mothership and any geographical area can have a distinct name. Ms. Guillot questioned that putting the FQMD logo on the vehicles may have a negative risk management affect.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Updates on New Orleans & Company – Mayor Cantrell announced a PAC in December 2018 to secure more tourism dollars for city infrastructure needs from New Orleans & Company. Ms. Remington asked that everyone be mindful of the relationship we have with both our funders and City Hall. Mr. Stephen Perry and other tourism leaders continue to meet with Governor John Bell Edwards Bell to find broad-based solutions to New Orleans’ infrastructure issues. In January, FQMD received a \$75,000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2020-2021. It has been signed and returned to New Orleans & Company. However, they have not signed the document or released the funds. Their hesitation results from the current uncertainty of tourism funding due to the Mayor’s recent PAC.

b. Reminders of state requirements for Commissioners:

i. [Financial Disclosure Form](#) (Form 417) - for BOARD ONLY

ii. [Annual Ethics Course](#) - for ALL COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Ms. Remington will send all Commissioners the link for the Financial Disclosure Form for completion by May 15, 2019. She will also send the State Ethics Annual Course link to all Commissioners and volunteers for completion by June 30, 2019. The Certificate of completion must be emailed to Ms. Remington and Secretary Klein as required by the State.

c. Discussion about shared file folders for Commissioners – It was determined that Ms. Remington shall implement Dropbox’s free file sharing service, so that documents may be accessible in real-time.

d. 2018 FQMD Accomplishments - Ms. Klein noted this document should be redone as soon as possible for marketing and funder follow-up as delineated at the January, 2019 Board Meeting.

VI. Items relating to FQMD’s 2018 audit – Adoption of Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M2) to “approve the Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire for submission...” seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

NOTE: The agenda was taken out of order by acclamation to accommodate Commander Gernon.

X. Report by Chair, Security and Enforcement Committee

- a. Feasibility of adding a Quality of Life Officer to the Supplemental Police Patrol Program –
Mr. Guillot stated that by acclimation of the Security and Enforcement Committee recommends the funding of a New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Quality of Life (QOL) officer to be added in addition to the current 8th District FQMD patrols. The French Quarter currently does not have an assigned QOL officer. Commander Gernon presented the QOL policy and procedures manual that was approved by the City Attorneys Office and would be utilized by this officer. This manual is also shared with all supplemental police staff, such as the New Orleans Levee Board, the Downtown Development District (DDD) patrols, and others. This has been a topic of conversation in both the Livability and Security and Enforcement Committees. Mr. Guillot noted that QOL for both residents and tourists has been on the decline, especially since the QOL officer position was lost. With crime now down forty percent, it was suggested it is time to address QOL issues. The 8th District would train this QOL officer. All police action shall be through NOPD direction. Ms. Rosenberg recommended to begin with a four hour per day shift, as Mr. Pendleton noted this was very successfully done with large vehicle enforcement. Mr. Musso noted that funding is in flux now, but everyone agreed QOL enforcement is needed. Mr. Pendleton noted this was initially vetted in the Finance Committee, but Ms. Raines feels the Treasurer and the Finance Committee should take another look to insure sustainability. She also noted a Security Task Force (STF) administrator/manager should be in place, as well as better communication between the field and the Commissioners. Mr. Musso stated the goal is to have a manager hired by mid-year. Mr. Emory felt the existing FQMD supplemental officers should receive this QOL training. Ms. Faulk noted the public does not understand that the supplemental patrol's first responsibility is as a crime deterrent. Mr. DeBlieux agreed, and believes patrol time should not be taken up with issues like t-shirt shop enforcement. Mr. Guillot motioned that (M3) “the FQMD shall hire a QOL officer pending Treasurer and Finance Committee approval...” seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved.
- b. Hand Gun Legislation – It was suggested handgun regulations for the French Quarter include a one hundred foot radius of existing Alcohol Beverage Outlets (ABO's). Commander Gernon shared how someone can walk down Bourbon Street with an AK47. Louisiana is an “open carry” state, so anyone can carry a gun if it is not concealed and the carrier is not caught in the act of drinking in a bar. Some revision is needed, but it is difficult with the current gun lobby. Mr. DeBlieux noted this has been a topic of discussion in the Government Affairs Committee. Further. He requested Councilmember Palmer to engage the New Orleans state legislators for non-carry legislation within National Landmarks, and/or to increase the penalties for illegally carrying a firearm within National Historical Landmarks in Louisiana. It was further stated that it does no good to alter City legislation, because violations are at the misdemeanor level. There was some discussion as to whether the entire FQMD footprint was part of this designation. Ms. Rosenberg noted since this legislation would involve criminal law; it would have statewide applicability. Therefore, the language would have to be self-limiting to our multiple national historic designations. Mr. Emory believed FQMD should pursue illegal carry, which would generate less conflict. Commander Gernon noted guns must be at least 2,000 feet from schools.
- c. Approve Interfore contract for 2019 French Quarter Security Assessment Study –
NOTE: Private Security is included in the study as an element of the total security presence. Chairman Musso stated no private security details shall be part of the FQMD STF. Mr. DeBlieux noted previously that “a cost benefit analysis of employing a private security team” be

struck from the contract. No STF funds shall be allocated to the Security and Enforcement Committee (SEC) study. Ms. Rosenberg stated there are no confines on the use of the allocated funds for projects within the scope of its agreement with New Orleans and Company. Chairman Musso added this study would assist FQMD in evaluating STF patrol expansion requests by the City. Mr. Emory shared that the other two bids came in at \$48,959 and \$65,620. Commander Gernon stated this is an opportunity to improve Vieux Carre' security. Private Security will be included in the study to determine if businesses should continue this expense or if the STF patrols should be increased. It was confirmed that FQMD shall not pay for private security. Ms. Faulk noted the SEC did add to the contract that the private security details must be post certified. Post certification does not make a person a police officer by default, but qualifies a person for employment vetting by a police force. Private details can include post-certification employees that are not police officers. Ms. Remington noted that \$28,000 is 19% of FQMD's operating account. She further stated if FQMD does not receive the \$75,000 from New Orleans & Company, FQMD would not be funded through the 2021 sunset. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the study contract should replace the term "potential benefits" with "pro's and con's" to know the strengths and weaknesses. Her recommendation was accepted by acclamation. Mr. Pendleton motioned (M4) to "execute the Security Assessment Contract for \$27,170 with the one item wording modification of changing "benefits" to pro's and con's"....." seconded by Mr. Caputo and approved by all the commissioners present with the exception of Mr. Guillot.

VII. Report by Chair, Finance and Development Committee

- a. Finance Committee Review of 2019 FQMD French Quarter Security Assessment Study – Ms. Raines distributed and presented the review protocol for committees to use in advance of requests to the Board that require funding. This templet was adapted for the SEC study request. The Finance Committee recommended not spending over \$27,170 for this contract, which will cover any FQMD administrative or miscellaneous fees.
- b. Future Programs/Initiatives for Review – Any future initiatives for review shall be submitted by the requesting Committee to the Finance Committee for vetting prior to Board consideration.
- c. The State Finance Report discussed last November is still incomplete, but Ms. Remington is working on this.

VIII. Report by Chair, Government Affairs Committee

- a. Update on sunset extension – Mr. DeBlieux thanked Mr. Furness and Ms. Rosenberg for their work on this. Mr. Furness asked Louisiana Representative Royse Duplessis and Louisiana Senator Wesley Bishop to extend the FQMD sunset to June 30, 2028. This morning, Representative Duplessis' office confirmed that everything is on track. Ms. Remington distributed a copy of the bill. Mr. Musso requested anyone wishing to be kept in the loop, to contact Mr. DeBlieux.
- b. Mr. DeBlieux requested that any governance requests be submitted to the Board for Government Committee action.

IX. Report by Chair, Livability Committee

- a. Mr. Pendleton reported the City has been a supportive partner thus far. The big belly street garbage receptacles have been retrofitted. Mr. Pendleton and Ms. Remington are meeting

tomorrow with the City, Empire and the DDD to discuss sanitation issues. The DDD is responsible for collection in the 100 blocks and this is not being done. Mr. Musso noted his office shall complete the reformatted Empire collection map. Ms. Remington shall distribute this to the commissioners and supporting organizations for distribution to their constituents.

- b. Ms. Faulks and Mr. Simms spring lighting walk-about will begin soon to update the current lighting study.
- c. The Bourbon Street Project will not resume until the Mississippi River level drops. Mr. Musso noted that the Vieux Carre' Commission (VCC) and French Quarter businesses requested this work begin in May when the river is lower, but this was denied.
- d. The meeting with the Department of Public Works (DPW) was encouraging. The street surfacing on Conti will be in concrete and paid from the City budget.
- e. Mr. Musso stated the French Quarter currently has twenty-two wireless telephone towers and a request to install fifty-six new ones has been submitted. He noted there is no reason for redundancy, because the chamber has sufficient room to house much more equipment.
- f. Mr. Musso stated the VCC is in the process of amending the VCC Design Guidelines. Any input or concerns should be sent to Mr. Musso or the VCC Director Bryan Block. Also, rooftop use will be more specified. The amended VCC Design Guidelines will be published and in digital format.

XI. New Business –

- a. Street Vendors – Mr. Emory asked that the Government Affairs Committee pursue a City requirement to register all street vendors. In addition, a permit would make illegal the use amplification on the street. Ms. Klein recalled that a court decision was awarded to the Jackson Square tarot card readers to continue operating possibly without a license, but definitely without paying taxes; this should be researched before new legislation is drafted. Ms. Faulk stated a MACNO representative at a meeting suggested an amplifier is part of a musician's instrument. Everyone agreed this legislation should be pursued. The goal is not to prohibit street vendor commerce, but to regulate it for community benefit and enhancement.

XII. Executive Session for consideration of personnel & other matters - Ms. Klein motioned to “adjourn to Executive Session...” seconded by Mr. Emory and approved by acclamation at 4 p.m.

XIII. Ratify motions of Executive Session - The Regular Meeting reconvened by acclamation of the Board at 4:55 p.m. There was no Board discussion required, nor actions to be taken.

XIV. Next meeting: May 13, 2019

XV. ADJOURNMENT Mr. Pendleton motioned (**M5**) that “the meeting be adjourned...” seconded by Mr. Emory, and unanimously approved at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Klein (signed original available)
Susan Klein, Secretary

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